(c) whether successful candidates after completion of their course will have better scope of employment in Government offices;

(d) whether the course has some other bright future scope; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the University has introduced, during the current academic year, Bachelor of Business Economics (BBE) in three colleges viz. Ram Lal Anand (Evening) College, Maharaja Agrasen College and Shri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce. Candidates securing 55% marks in class XII examination with English as one of the subjects are eligible for admission to the Course. A relaxation of 5% marks is available to candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

This degree is equivalent to other under-graduate degrees offered by the University. Candidates passing it will be eligible for all Government jobs where an undergraduate degree is the prescribed qualification. As this course has been introduced only recently, it may be premature to indicate specific job opportunities in the private sector. The course has, however, been introduced with the expectation that there will be significant demand for holders of the degree in the private sector as it provides business orientation to the students. They may also get preference in admission to Master's level courses relating to Business Administration and Commerce.

SHRI K.M. KHAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in regard to the course about which I had put the question, there is a lot of demand from other States also, like in Delhi. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, if such a request is made by other States, the Government of India would permit starting of such a course and whether they would be encouraged by the Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Question Hour is over. (*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in Forest Cover

*581. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various steps taken in respect of afforestation have increased the forest cover in various States in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1995 the total forest cover of the country as per 1995 assessment in comparison to 1993 assessment has increased in all the States except Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab and the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. There has not been any change in the forest cover in the States of Goa, Daman and Diu, Kerala and Tripura. In the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry, there is hardly any discernible forest cover.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Comparative situation of forest cover in 1993 and 1995 assessment for India as per the State of Forest Report, 1995

(in sq. km)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	1995 assessment	1993 assessment	Changes in 1995
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,112	47,256	− 144
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,621	68,661	− 40
3.	Assam	24,061	24,508	− 447
4.	Bihar	26,561	26,587	− 26
5.	Delhi	26	22	+ 4
6.	Goa Daman & Diu	1,250	1,250	No change
7.	Gujarat	12,320	12,044	+ 276
8.	Haryana	603	513	+ 90
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12,501	12,502	− 1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,433	20,433	− 10
11.	Karnataka	32,382	32,343	+ 39
12.	Kerala	10,336	10,336	No change
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1,35,164	1,35,396	− 232
14.	Maharashtra	43,843	43,859	− 16
15.	Manipur	17,558	17,621	− 63
16.	Meghalaya	15,714	15,769	− 55
17.	Mizoram	18,576	18,697	− 121
18.	Nagaland	14,291	14,348	− 57
19.	Orissa	47,107	47,145	− 38
20.	Punjab	1,342	1,343	− 1
21.	Rajasthan	13,280	13,099	+ 181
22.	Sikkim	3,127	3,119	+ 8
23.	Tamilnadu	17,766	17,726	+ 40
24.	Tripura	5,538	5,538	No change
25.	Uttar Pradesh	33,986	33,961	+ 25
26.	West Bengal	8,276	8,186	+ 90
27.	A & N Islands	7,615	7,624	− 9
28.	Chandigarh	7	5	+ 2
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	204	206	− 2
30.	Lakshadweep*	—	—	—
31.	Pondicherry*	—	—	—
	TOTAL	639,600	640,107	− 507

* No discernible forest cover

New Crop Insurance Scheme

*583. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed new Crop Insurance Scheme for the small and marginal farmers;

(b) whether any decision on lowering the interest on NABARD loans has been taken; and

(c) if so, the details thereof